

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

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R 221550Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7303

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PE

SUBJ: ATTACK IN LIMA PRESS AGAINST U.S. MISSIONARIES

REF: LIMA 8125

SUMMARY: LEFTIST CORREO HAS LAUNCHED CAMPAIGN TO EXPEL U.S. MISSIONARIES FROM PERU. SERIES OF ARTICLES COINCIDES WITH FURTHER ADVERSE PUBLICITY CONCERNING SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS. END SUMMARY.

1. OCTOBER 19, 20, 21 CORREO RAN BANNER FRONT-PAGE HEADLINES IN ATTEMPT TO STIR UP ILL FEELING AGAINST U.S. MISSIONARIES IN PERU. HEADLINES INDICATE TONE AND LEVEL OF JOURNALISM:

"RELIGIOUS SECTS OF U.S. CONSPIRE AGAINST REVOLUTION";

"INVESTIGATE THE SECTS"; "PEASANTS AND WORKERS: YES, THE

SECTS ARE CONSPIRING".

2. THE SERIES IS HODGEPODGE OF ILLOGICAL SUPPOSITIONS AND PROVOCATIVE ALLEGATIONS. THE CHARGES INCLUDE THAT CIA USED RELIGIOUS SECTS TO OVERTHROW ALLENDE REGIME AND THAT NOW CIA MONEY IS FINANCING MISSIONARIES IN PERU IN ORDER "DESTABILIZE" THE PERUVIAN REVOLUTION. THE MORMONS AND JEHOVAH WITNESSES ARE ONLY SECTS SINGLED OUT BY NAME, ALTHOUGH PROTESTANT WORKERS

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GENERALLY ARE CONDEMNED ALONG WITH "SPANISH PRIESTS". THE

ARTICLES CALL UPON POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS AND NATIONALISTIC CATHOLICS TO BE ON GUARD AGAINST DOOR-TO-DOOR SUBVERSION AND CULTURAL IMPERIALISM OF MISSIONARIES.

3. CORREO AND LA PRENSA HAVE ALSO KEPT UP ADVERSE PUBLICITY AGAINST SUMNER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS (SIL). OLD STORIES ALLEGING SIL CONNECTIONS WITH CIA IN COLOMIBA HAVE BEEN RE-PRINTED; THE CRITICISMS BY GROUP OF SAN MARCOS UNIVERSITY ACADEMICS (LIMA 8125) HAVE BEEN REHASHED; AND LA PRENSA ON OCTOBER 21 QUOTED FROM DATED SIL PUBLICATIONS IN ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH IMAGE OF PATERNALISTIC FOREIGN ORGANIZATION MEDDLING IN PERUVIAN AND INDIAN AFFAIRS.

4. COMMENT: THE CORREO CAMPAIGN, ALTHOUGH OUTRAGEOUS, IS TYPICAL OF ITS EDITOR, HUGO NEIRA. HE REGULARLY LAUNCHES PRESS CAMPAIGNS WHICH AFTER A FEW DAYS FALL FLAT. NEIRA HAS ACCESS TO TELEVISION, HOWEVER, AND IS OFTEN CONVINCING IN PERSONAL DEBATE. SHOULD HE CARRY HIS ANTI-MISSIONARY THEME OVER TO TV, HIS ARGUMENTS COULD BEGIN TO HAVE IMPACT ON POPULAR ATTITUDES. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAS NOT COMMENTED ON THE SERIES OR BECOME ASSOCIATED WITH IT.

DEAN

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Message Attributes

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